

Ellis, Alex

From: Ellis, Alex
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 1:04 PM
To: Alex Ellis (aellis@bgrpr.com)
Subject: Remarks delivered to the Free Iran World Summit 2021

Remarks delivered to the Free Iran World Summit 2021

July 10, 2021

Excerpts from Video Message from Senator Robert Menendez

Chair, Foreign Relations Committee

[The regime in Iran is] a government that has repeatedly shown no interest in securing anything beyond its own self-preservation, sewing chaos abroad, and corruption and repression at home seeking a pathway towards a nuclear weapon. We need to look no further than Iran's recent presidential election, in which Ebrahim Raisi, a hardline crony of the supreme leader who is subject to US human rights sanctions was elected president. Mr. Raisi won a sham election after the regime cleared the field of any credible challenger in which a majority of eligible voters showed their disgust by refusing to participate, leading to the lowest voter turnout since 1979.

While it remains clear that the supreme leader Khamenei remains the ultimate ruler, it is a further indictment of his rule that he would not only endorse but tip the scales in favor of a man who like Raisi becoming president of Iran. A man who is actively involved in the forcible disappearance and extrajudicial killing of thousands of Iranians dissidents in 1988. A man who was involved in brutal crackdowns against peaceful protesters in both the green movement of 2009 and more recent protests of 2019. A man who Amnesty International's Secretary General Agnes Callamard, recently said must be investigated for crimes against humanity.

In the case of such callous disregard for the most fundamental rights and freedoms of the Iranian people and the risk that Iran under Khamenei and Raisi create in the entire region and the world, your continued advocacy remains absolutely vital. It is a beacon of hope, that one day the people of Iran, the United States and indeed all the world will rejoice in an Iranian government that is at peace with the international community and works to secure a better future for its people. Thank you again for your hard work and we continue to stand with you until that day comes, of freedom, of respect for human rights and being part once again, of the international community that the Iranian people deserve.

Text of Message of Senator Jeanne Shaheen

[To] Mrs. Maryam Rajavi
Keynote Speaker

Like most members of Congress, I have been following the developments in Iran closely and with alarm. Human rights abuses have become common with an Iranian government that lacks legitimacy and whose hold

on power is dependent upon the oppression of its people. The election process is distorted in favor of the regime's candidate and at the expense of the Iranian people. Further, Iran continues to support and perpetuate violence in its own country and across the region. Despite this, the Iranian people continue to push for a democratic, secular and peaceful Iran. For this, I commend every Iranian and Iranian-American who fights for a better future.

Standing up for a free and democratic Iran is not your burden alone. The United States and the international community stand in support of your efforts. Human rights have long been a pillar of U.S. foreign policy. As we continue to engage Iran, human rights must be a principal part of the U.S. approach. Congress and the Biden administration have made it clear to Iran and our allies that the United States supports those in Iran who are fighting for the rights and freedoms of all Iranians.

**Excerpts from the Text of Remarks by
Congressman Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)
Chair, House Democratic Caucus**

The Iranian government brutalizes its citizens and exports terrorism throughout the world.

And so, I commend you on your courage, on your strength and on your leadership in helping to bring about a free, a secular and a non-nuclear Iran and to give the Iranian people the types of freedoms and liberties that they deserve.

I stand with you.

I know that Members of Congress on both sides of the ideological spectrum, Democrats and Republicans and both sides of the Capitol, the House and the Senate stand with you.

And that the Biden administration also understands the importance of bringing about a free, a secular and a non-nuclear Iran.

We want to unleash the brilliance and the talents and the abilities of the Iranian people that are being suppressed by a brutal regime and lift up freedom and liberty for all.

**The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader**

Excerpts from the Video Message

I'm happy to be with you today to stand in support of a free and democratic Iran.

The oppressive regime in Tehran and its new president has a history of suppressing freedom of speech, supporting terrorism, and seeking nuclear weapons. To the families who have lost loved ones in opposing this regime, I am sorry for your loss, and I share your concerns.

But I have also hope.

Hope that America -- along with you and our allies -- will see a democratic Iran that protects free speech and the rights of all people.

Hope that the dark days of fear under the Supreme Leader will subside, as Iran blossoms into a responsible democratic nation.

Imagine it. A free Iran.

Thank you for striving to make this goal a reality in our lifetime. Together, it can be done.

Excerpts from Transcript of Video Message

Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA)

The world should not forget the mass murders carried by the Iranian regime in 1988. It was in July of that year that Ayatollah Khomeini issued the bloody order to annihilate the enemies of Islam immediately. Executions of thousands continued for months with hundreds of people hanged each and every day before being buried in mass unmarked graves. Today we know that as many as 30,000 political prisoners had their lives taken from them. They lost their lives because they supported the dream of a free Iran.

I am a lead democratic sponsor of House Resolution 118, a resolution supporting the people of Iran and their desire for a democratic secular and nonnuclear future. This resolution also condemns the current Iranian regime's systematic human rights violations and its state sponsor of terrorist acts against America, Iranian dissidents and others.

In addition to that resolution, in February Congressman McClintock and I led a letter addressed to President Biden, urging him to work with our allies, including particularly our partners in Albania and other Balkan countries, where Iran has expanded its presence, and to hold the regime accountable for breaching its diplomatic privileges and to call on nations to work to prevent the malign activities of the Iranian regime's diplomatic missions. The regime of Tehran uses violence and espionage to target its own people at home and abroad. A prosperous Iran must begin with a peaceful Iran, where the Iranian people's freedom and human rights are restored. We must work toward a secular, nonnuclear and democratic Iran where these goals can become realities.

Excerpts of remarks from General James Jones

Former National Security Advisor of the United States

Much to the chagrin of the medieval tyranny's apologists, the Iranian regime's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei engineered the ascension of one of his most loyal and ruthless cronies, Ebrahim Raisi, to presidency.

Raisi has risen through the ranks of the regime through barbaric murder and suppression. And he became president of the regime this year through a sham election and a rigged and fraudulent process. The people of Iran boycotted the regime's elections because they know it is an unfair and undemocratic process with a horrendous outcome.

That, even according to the regime's exaggerated figures less than 20 percent cast their ballots in Tehran, goes to show that this regime does not have an iota of legitimacy among the Iranian people. The Election also put an end to the false narrative the regime itself and its western apologists fed the world for more than four decades, that concessions and turning a blind eye on the mullahs' excesses at home and abroad is necessary to empower the so-called moderates within the ruling clique. As millions of Iranians chanted during the 2017 and 2019 nationwide uprisings, "Hardliner, reformers, the game is now over." Indeed, if past is prologue, the policy pursued so far only strengthened the most ruthless and radical faction of this regime to the detriment of the Iranian people and regional peace and stability.

The outcome of the election is a vindication of what the Iranian Resistance has been saying for the past four decades, that this regime is incapable of reform and no amount of political and economic concessions will moderate its behavior.

Raisi's ascendance to the regime's presidency proves once and for all that change cannot come from within the regime, but only from the people themselves. So, when one looks at the Iranian political landscape one inevitably recognizes that there are only two forces arrayed against one another. The Mullahs, the NCRI and the MEK. In other words, there is an organized and highly effective opposition, the NCRI, led by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, which offers a truly democratic and viable alternative. This is an alternative that not only enjoys support at home but also a growing international legitimacy.

Freedom is advancing both inside and outside of Iran. The international community must support Mrs. Rajavi's 10-point plan, which calls for a free, democratic, secular and non-nuclear republic in Iran.

The people of this once proud country deserve nothing less.

For more information, please contact:

Alex Ellis at aellis@bgrpr.com

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Alex Ellis
Senior Associate
BGR Public Relations

BGR | GROUP
WASHINGTON - AUSTIN - BEIJING - LONDON

The Homer Building
11th Floor South
601 13th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Direct: 202.661.6356
aellis@bgrdc.com
www.bgrdc.com
[Check us out on LinkedIn](#)

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Excerpts from former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

Any dealings with [Iran's President-elect] Raisi would be tantamount to dealing with a mass murderer. This is not only immoral but also counterproductive. We should make clear to our allies in Europe and Asia as well to make sure that they hold him accountable, and that if they deal with this man who sent thousands of his countrymen to execution in a massacre in 1988, the United States should hold them accountable as well.

Actions supporting our love of the Iranian people must begin by holding Ebrahim Raisi accountable for his crimes against humanity back in 1988. I know there are those in the audience who have had family that were killed in Raisi's massacre. As was the case with the Trump Administration, human rights and counter terrorism must be at the very center of our Iran policy. We must support the Iranian people. If we want to keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, we have to apply pressure until they change their behavior, or until reforms which move Iran toward a democratic form of government take place. We cannot shower the Ayatollah with money and economic benefits in the hopes that he won't use it to inflict terror. This thinking is foolish, dangerous, and backwards.

I pray that the United States does not increase the resources he has at his disposal to empower the theocracy. Engagement with the regime will make lengthen the time that the regime has to behave as it has for these past decades denying basic human dignity and opportunity to the Iranian people.

.....

We were there. Where labor union strikes or product boycotts, we made clear that these were the result of revolutionary incompetence, not failures of the Iranian people, and we did our best to provide support to those who sought to be lifted out from under the yoke of the regime.

... The 2021 presidential election, however, is vastly different from those before it, primarily because it is taking place when the theocratic regime is at its most precarious state since 1979, and its prospects of survival are openly questioned by regime insiders and challenged by a restive, freedom-loving nation. In short: very few people actually voted FOR Raisi.

This was a boycott. Turnout was the lowest since 1979, marking a total rejection of the regime and its candidates. It was, in fact, a boycott—and the regime knows it.

This election is heavily impacted by a series of major social upheavals, including the 2017, 2018, and 2019 uprisings, whose main slogan was:

"Hardliners, reformers, the game is over now," and "Death to the dictator," this shakes the very foundations of the regime in its entirety. These uprisings demonstrated the Iranian pin no hope on elections as a conduit for substantive change. And the election of 2021, truly the selection of Raisi as the Ayatollah's president proved this out.

Like I said, the regime is at its weakest point in its now 40 years of existence.

As for this Raisi fellow, he is not the President of the people of Iran. He is the President of the Ayatollah. His mission is clear. Inflict pain. Frighten, continue to loot, and to plunder.

... the United States should take the lead to hold him accountable for crimes against humanity. Any dealings with Raisi, would be tantamount to dealing with a mass murderer. This is not only immoral but also counterproductive. We should make clear to our allies in Europe and Asia as well to make sure that they hold him accountable, and that if they deal with this man who sent thousands of his countrymen to execution in a massacre in 1988, the United States would hold them accountable as well.....

Actions supporting our love of the Iranian people must begin by holding Ebrahim Raisi accountable for his crimes against humanity back in 1988. I know there are those in the audience who have had family that were killed in Raisi's massacre. We must support the Iranian people.

We must continue to support the Iranian people as they fight for a freer and more democratic Iran in any way that we can. There is so much good work that American civil society can do to further this goal. It is work that your organization is actively engaged in – keep up the fight.

In the end the Iranian people will have a secular, democratic, non-nuclear Republic, I pray that this day will come soon and with the support of Iranians living all around the world – and those who resist from within -- that day will come sooner. I am committed to this cause; I know you all are too. May your mission be blessed and protected. May the Iranian people be blessed. It is a hopeful time and a time to redouble all of our efforts.

Excerpts from Donna Brazile

Former Acting Chair Democratic National Committee

Today, I join you in solidarity – in this, the [fortieth anniversary](#) of the founding of the National Council of Resistance of Iran. Let's give a solid round of applause for forty years of survival, thriving, and for the leadership of President-elect Mrs. Maryam Rajavi.

I am here not just in gratitude for sharing this occasion. I am here in humility.

The humility that comes from observing your remarkable courage and leadership.

Humility in watching you stand up to religious tyranny.

Humility for your firm resoluteness in seeking a secular state.

Humility for your advancement of human rights.

Humility in measuring your passion for freedom

Humility for your quiet embrace of humanity's equality.

Humility for your forthright defense of the rights of women and girls.

Humility for your persistence in seeking a nuclear-free Iran and world.

Indeed, you are an example for the world – including the United States – to emulate.

Excerpts from Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)

Committee on The Judiciary, Select Committee on Intelligence

I'd like to wish a warm welcome to today's convention as you continue to fight for a free Iran. America stands in full solidarity with the Iranian people. And we echo their call for liberty, democracy, and peace.

And on the heels of yet another sham election, this changing of the guard can't be just a blip on the radar.

We must take a unified stance in opposition to the oppression and tyranny that the hardliner Ebrahim Raisi represents.

I continue to urge President Biden to work closely with Congress to identify an effective and bipartisan approach to the threat posed by a nuclear Iran.

Excerpts from Video Message by

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)

Committee on Foreign Relations & Committee on the Judiciary

I'm honored today to address the International Convention for a Free Iran. I know that we are deeply concerned about much of what's happening in Washington, DC. Where the Biden Administration is rushing to dismantle the sanctions against the Ayatollah Khamenei and the mullahs. The Iranian regime's malign activities are well known: Missile proliferation, seeking the destruction of America and our allies including Israel, creating terror states within states in Iraq, in Yemen, in Lebanon. Flowing the Assad regime in Syria.

Funding and directing terrorism across the globe and of course inside Iran, over and over again, committing unthinkable human rights atrocities.

When we are talking about the future of Iran, it is my belief we need to collapse the regime.

. . . Make no mistake I will continue leading the fight in the senate to hold the Iranian regime accountable for their malign activities. And to return US policy to one of maximum pressure until this evil and despotic regime finally collapses.

**Excerpts from Video Message by
Senator Joni Ernst (R – IA)
Member, Senate Armed Services Committee**

As a combat veteran who has served in the United States uniform for over 23 years, I was proud to fight for the freedoms and liberty we cherish in my country. The same values you are fighting for today. Here in the United States as ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Emerging threats and capacities, I have been urging the Biden administration to prioritize keeping America and the world safe from Iran's malign behavior and destabilizing activities. The murderous Iranian regime remains the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism and poses a significant threat to global peace and security.

Rewarding Iran for continuing to back Hamas and other terrorist organizations, while building up their nuclear arsenal, is not the right path to ensuring the safety and security of Americans. The Iranian regime is not an honest broker and the United States should never go back to the failed Iran nuclear deal.

**Excerpts from Video Message by
Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)
Committee on Foreign Relations & Committee on the Judiciary**

The culture, customs and history of Iran and its people are incredible. They are truly remarkable. They deserve to be celebrated within Iran and around the world not stifled by authoritarian leaders fearful of their own people.

Like you, I look forward to the day when there is a democratic government in Iran, dedicated to the highest ideals of humanity to safety and security, to nuclear nonproliferation and the basic respect for human rights, gender equality, and religious and ethnic tolerance. These are foundational freedoms not of the United States or Iran, but of humanity. Iran's history has celebrated those very ideals.

Unfortunately, we know the people of Iran have been denied these rights for far too long, decades now. Iranian people have demonstrated their remarkable resistance.... I've also seen the willingness of Iranians inside their own country to put themselves at great personal risk by engaging in protests, participating in social movements and finding creative ways to defy the authoritarian Iranian regime. Their desire for democracy, for justice, for freedom, outweigh their fear of being injured or taken to jail. The United States is a friend to the Iranian people. I'm so proud of that.

I remain hopeful that we will someday, in fact I remain confident that we will someday see the free and open Iran that we all hope for and dream of.

**Excerpts from Video Message by
Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO)
Chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee**

The current regime in Iran as you all know is not simply sustainable nor an effective option for the Iranian people. Safety and protections are the fundamental service a government should provide to its citizens, but the ayatollah and his enablers continue to deny the Iranian people basic political, religious or social freedoms including the basic right to life itself.

Iranian authorities conduct unimaginable horrors especially against those who dared to speak the truth. These abuses have to stop. The Iranian regime's brutal suppressions are tied to another basic principle of government, the fundamental right of citizens to determine who they are governed by and to elect leaders who support their beliefs and their well-being.

This is not happening in Iran today. By stifling dissident and holding these sham elections, the Iranian governments revealing the truth. Its deeply afraid of its own people, and the power of ordinary citizen have when allowed to speak up and demand a different future. I'm encouraged by the protests that have taken place in recent years that reflect these principles of life. I hope we can see them continue.

I truly believe it's possible to achieve a better free government in Iran. I believe we have to continue to hold the Iranian regime accountable for its abuses at home and its aggressive actions around the world.

Excerpts from Deborah Lee James
Former U.S. Secretary of the Air Force

To the participants of the Free Iran World Summit 2021, to President elect of the National Council of Resistance, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, and to the millions more who are listening in Iran and around the world, including the mostly female led resistance units, I want to begin by thanking all of you for your dedication, your devotion and your commitment to the cause of a secular, democratic and non-nuclear Iran. I also want you to know that the government of the United States stands with you, the people of the United States stand with you, and—as a former Secretary of the US Air Force, a mother, a daughter and a sister— I also stand with you.

My friends, I hope you are feeling tremendous pride at this point in your history. Working courageously and together, you today form the backbone of a growing and powerful resistance to the corrupt regime in Tehran—a resistance that-- with your perseverance-- will never be silenced. I urge you to take heart and be encouraged for you have accomplished a great deal in a very short period of time. Most recently, thanks to your collective efforts and the leadership of Mrs. Rajavi, you sent a powerful message to Iran's Supreme Leader Khamenei and his cronies. That message quite simply was: WE SHALL NOT TAKE PART IN YOUR SHAM ELECTION!

Your successful boycott of the June 18, 2021, election, coming on the heels of four years of popular protests, show the world and the regime in power that the Iranian people are fed up with the economic incompetence, the broken promises, the systemic corruption, the disrespect for human rights and the misogynistic treatment of women in Iran. If I may, let me reflect for a moment on that last point. How ironic that the leaders of Iran treat women as less than equals-- when this resistance movement, led by a woman and comprised of 50 percent women-- will ultimately bring them down!

My friends, please allow me to sum up. YOU—not them—represent the future of Iran. YOU—not them—are committed to equality for all nationalities and genders. YOU—not them—believe in peaceful coexistence and respect for the United Nations charter. And if you continue to fight, to challenge, to speak out and to resist, YOU—not them—will one day deliver the right of self-determination and freedom to the people of Iran.

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BGR | GROUP
WASHINGTON - AUSTIN - BEIJING - LONDON

The Homer Building
11th Floor South
601 13th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Direct: 202.661.6356
aellis@bgrdc.com
www.bgrdc.com
[Check us out on LinkedIn](#)

Ellis, Alex

From: Ellis, Alex
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 3:15 PM
To: Alex Ellis (aellis@bgrpr.com)
Subject: ICYM: Highlights from Free Iran World Summit 2021

In Case You Missed It: Highlights from Free Iran World Summit 2021

WASHINGTON, D.C, July 12, 2021 - The virtual [Free Iran World Summit 2021: The Democratic Alternative on the March to Victory](#) is underway, featuring talks from key current and former government officials from around the world. Below, please find key excerpts from this weekend's speeches – for publication and broadcast. *Alireza Jafarzadeh, deputy director of the Washington Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, is available for interviews.*

Remarks delivered to the Free Iran World Summit 2021

July 10, 2021

Excerpts from Video Message from Senator Robert Menendez

Chair, Foreign Relations Committee

[The regime in Iran is] a government that has repeatedly shown no interest in securing anything beyond its own self-preservation, sewing chaos abroad, and corruption and repression at home seeking a pathway towards a nuclear weapon. We need to look no further than Iran's recent presidential election, in which Ebrahim Raisi, a hardline crony of the supreme leader who is subject to US human rights sanctions was elected president. Mr. Raisi won a sham election after the regime cleared the field of any credible challenger in which a majority of eligible voters showed their disgust by refusing to participate, leading to the lowest voter turnout since 1979.

While it remains clear that the supreme leader Khamenei remains the ultimate ruler, it is a further indictment of his rule that he would not only endorse but tip the scales in favor of a man who like Raisi becoming president of Iran. A man who is actively involved in the forcible disappearance and extrajudicial killing of thousands of Iranians dissidents in 1988. A man who was involved in brutal crackdowns against peaceful protesters in both the green movement of 2009 and more recent protests of 2019. A man who Amnesty International's Secretary General Agnes Callamard, recently said must be investigated for crimes against humanity.

In the case of such callous disregard for the most fundamental rights and freedoms of the Iranian people and the risk that Iran under Khamenei and Raisi create in the entire region and the world, your continued advocacy remains absolutely vital. It is a beacon of hope, that one day the people of Iran, the United States and indeed all the world will rejoice in an Iranian government that is at peace with the international community and works to secure a better future for its people. Thank you again for your hard work and we continue to stand with you until that day comes, of freedom, of respect for human rights and being part once again, of the international community that the Iranian people deserve.

Text of Message of Senator Jeanne Shaheen

[To] Mrs. Maryam Rajavi
Keynote Speaker

Like most members of Congress, I have been following the developments in Iran closely and with alarm. Human rights abuses have become common with an Iranian government that lacks legitimacy and whose hold on power is dependent upon the oppression of its people. The election process is distorted in favor of the regime's candidate and at the expense of the Iranian people. Further, Iran continues to support and perpetuate violence in its own country and across the region. Despite this, the Iranian people continue to push for a democratic, secular and peaceful Iran. For this, I commend every Iranian and Iranian-American who fights for a better future.

Standing up for a free and democratic Iran is not your burden alone. The United States and the international community stand in support of your efforts. Human rights have long been a pillar of U.S. foreign policy. As we continue to engage Iran, human rights must be a principal part of the U.S. approach. Congress and the Biden administration have made it clear to Iran and our allies that the United States supports those in Iran who are fighting for the rights and freedoms of all Iranians.

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That, even according to the regime's exaggerated figures less than 20 percent cast their ballots in Tehran, goes to show that this regime does not have an iota of legitimacy among the Iranian people. The Election also put an end to the false narrative the regime itself and its western apologists fed the world for more than four decades, that concessions and turning a blind eye on the mullahs' excesses at home and abroad is necessary

to empower the so-called moderates within the ruling clique. As millions of Iranians chanted during the 2017 and 2019 nationwide uprisings, "Hardliner, reformers, the game is now over." Indeed, if past is prologue, the policy pursued so far only strengthened the most ruthless and radical faction of this regime to the detriment of the Iranian people and regional peace and stability.

The outcome of the election is a vindication of what the Iranian Resistance has been saying for the past four decades, that this regime is incapable of reform and no amount of political and economic concessions will moderate its behavior.

Raisi's ascendance to the regime's presidency proves once and for all that change cannot come from within the regime, but only from the people themselves. So, when one looks at the Iranian political landscape one inevitably recognizes that there are only two forces arrayed against one another. The Mullahs, the NCRI and the MEK. In other words, there is an organized and highly effective opposition, the NCRI, led by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, which offers a truly democratic and viable alternative. This is an alternative that not only enjoys support at home but also a growing international legitimacy.

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This was a boycott. Turnout was the lowest since 1979, marking a total rejection of the regime and its candidates. It was, in fact, a boycott— and the regime knows it.

This election is heavily impacted by a series of major social upheavals, including the 2017, 2018, and 2019 uprisings, whose main slogan was:

"Hardliners, reformers, the game is over now," and "Death to the dictator," this shakes the very foundations of the regime in its entirety. These uprisings demonstrated the Iranian pin no hope on elections as a conduit for substantive change. And the election of 2021, truly the selection of Raisi as the Ayatollah's president proved this out.

Like I said, the regime is at its weakest point in its now 40 years of existence.

As for this Raisi fellow, he is not the President of the people of Iran. He is the President of the Ayatollah. His mission is clear. Inflict pain. Frighten, continue to loot, and to plunder.

... the United States should take the lead to hold him accountable for crimes against humanity. Any dealings with Raisi, would be tantamount to dealing with a mass murderer. This is not only immoral but also counterproductive. We should make clear to our allies in Europe and Asia as well to make sure that they hold him accountable, and that if they deal with this man who sent thousands of his countrymen to execution in a massacre in 1988, the United States would hold them accountable as well.....

Actions supporting our love of the Iranian people must begin by holding Ebrahim Raisi accountable for his crimes against humanity back in 1988. I know there are those in the audience who have had family that were killed in Raisi's massacre.

We must support the Iranian people.

We must continue to support the Iranian people as they fight for a freer and more democratic Iran in any way that we can. There is so much good work that American civil society can do to further this goal. It is work that your organization is actively engaged in – keep up the fight.

In the end the Iranian people will have a secular, democratic, non-nuclear Republic, I pray that this day will come soon and with the support of Iranians living all around the world – and those who resist from within -- that day will come sooner. I am committed to this cause; I know you all are too. May your mission be blessed and protected. May the Iranian people be blessed. It is a hopeful time and a time to redouble all of our efforts.

Excerpts from Donna Brazile

Former Acting Chair Democratic National Committee

Today, I join you in solidarity – in this, the [fortieth anniversary](#) of the founding of the National Council of Resistance of Iran. Let's give a solid round of applause for forty years of survival, thriving, and for the leadership of President-elect Mrs. Maryam Rajavi.

I am here not just in gratitude for sharing this occasion. I am here in humility.

The humility that comes from observing your remarkable courage and leadership.

Humility in watching you stand up to religious tyranny.

Humility for your firm resoluteness in seeking a secular state.

Humility for your advancement of human rights.

Humility in measuring your passion for freedom

Humility for your quiet embrace of humanity's equality.

Humility for your forthright defense of the rights of women and girls.

Humility for your persistence in seeking a nuclear-free Iran and world.

Indeed, you are an example for the world – including the United States – to emulate.

Excerpts from Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)

Committee on The Judiciary, Select Committee on Intelligence

I'd like to wish a warm welcome to today's convention as you continue to fight for a free Iran. America stands in full solidarity with the Iranian people. And we echo their call for liberty, democracy, and peace.

And on the heels of yet another sham election, this changing of the guard can't be just a blip on the radar.

We must take a unified stance in opposition to the oppression and tyranny that the hardliner Ebrahim Raisi represents.

I continue to urge President Biden to work closely with Congress to identify an effective and bipartisan approach to the threat posed by a nuclear Iran.

Excerpts from Video Message by

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)

Committee on Foreign Relations & Committee on the Judiciary

I'm honored today to address the International Convention for a Free Iran. I know that we are deeply concerned about much of what's happening in Washington, DC. Where the Biden Administration is rushing to dismantle the sanctions against the Ayatollah Khamenei and the mullahs. The Iranian regime's malign activities are well known: Missile proliferation, seeking the destruction of America and our allies including Israel, creating terror states within states in Iraq, in Yemen, in Lebanon. Flowing the Assad regime in Syria.

Funding and directing terrorism across the globe and of course inside Iran, over and over again, committing unthinkable human rights atrocities.

When we are talking about the future of Iran, it is my belief we need to collapse the regime.

. . . Make no mistake I will continue leading the fight in the senate to hold the Iranian regime accountable for their malign activities. And to return US policy to one of maximum pressure until this evil and despotic regime finally collapses.

Excerpts from Video Message by

Senator Joni Ernst (R – IA)

Member, Senate Armed Services Committee

As a combat veteran who has served in the United States uniform for over 23 years, I was proud to fight for the freedoms and liberty we cherish in my country. The same values you are fighting for today. Here in the United States as ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Emerging threats and capacities, I have been urging the Biden administration to prioritize keeping America and the world safe from Iran's malign behavior and destabilizing activities. The murderous Iranian regime remains the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism and poses a significant threat to global peace and security.

Rewarding Iran for continuing to back Hamas and other terrorist organizations, while building up their nuclear arsenal, is not the right path to ensuring the safety and security of Americans. The Iranian regime is not an honest broker and the United States should never go back to the failed Iran nuclear deal.

Excerpts from Video Message by

Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)

Committee on Foreign Relations & Committee on the Judiciary

The culture, customs and history of Iran and its people are incredible. They are truly remarkable. They deserve to be celebrated within Iran and around the world not stifled by authoritarian leaders fearful of their own people.

Like you, I look forward to the day when there is a democratic government in Iran, dedicated to the highest ideals of humanity to safety and security, to nuclear nonproliferation and the basic respect for human rights, gender equality, and religious and ethnic tolerance. These are foundational freedoms not of the United States or Iran, but of humanity. Iran's history has celebrated those very ideals.

Unfortunately, we know the people of Iran have been denied these rights for far too long, decades now. Iranian people have demonstrated their remarkable resistance.... I've also seen the willingness of Iranians inside their own country to put themselves at great personal risk by engaging in protests, participating in social movements and finding creative ways to defy the authoritarian Iranian regime. Their desire for democracy, for justice, for freedom, outweigh their fear of being injured or taken to jail. The United States is a friend to the Iranian people. I'm so proud of that.

I remain hopeful that we will someday, in fact I remain confident that we will someday see the free and open Iran that we all hope for and dream of.

Excerpts from Video Message by

Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO)

Chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee

The current regime in Iran as you all know is not simply sustainable nor an effective option for the Iranian people.

Safety and protections are the fundamental service a government should provide to its citizens, but the ayatollah and his enablers continue to deny the Iranian people basic political, religious or social freedoms including the basic right to life itself.

Iranian authorities conduct unimaginable horrors especially against those who dared to speak the truth. These abuses have to stop. The Iranian regime's brutal suppressions are tied to another basic principle of government, the fundamental right of citizens to determine who they are governed by and to elect leaders who support their beliefs and their well-being.

This is not happening in Iran today. By stifling dissent and holding these sham elections, the Iranian governments revealing the truth. Its deeply afraid of its own people, and the power of ordinary citizen have when allowed to speak up and demand a different future. I'm encouraged by the protests that have taken place in recent years that reflect these principles of life. I hope we can see them continue.

I truly believe it's possible to achieve a better free government in Iran. I believe we have to continue to hold the Iranian regime accountable for its abuses at home and its aggressive actions around the world.

Excerpts from Deborah Lee James

Former U.S. Secretary of the Air Force

To the participants of the Free Iran World Summit 2021, to President elect of the National Council of Resistance, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, and to the millions more who are listening in Iran and around the world, including the mostly female led resistance units, I want to begin by thanking all of you for your dedication, your devotion and your commitment to the cause of a secular, democratic and non-nuclear Iran. I also want you to know that the government of the United States stands with you, the people of the United States stand with you, and—as a former Secretary of the US Air Force, a mother, a daughter and a sister— I also stand with you.

My friends, I hope you are feeling tremendous pride at this point in your history. Working courageously and together, you today form the backbone of a growing and powerful resistance to the corrupt regime in Tehran—a resistance that-- with your perseverance-- will never be silenced. I urge you to take heart and be encouraged for you have accomplished a great deal in a very short period of time. Most recently, thanks to your collective efforts and the leadership of Mrs. Rajavi, you sent a powerful message to Iran's Supreme Leader Khamenei and his cronies. That message quite simply was: WE SHALL NOT TAKE PART IN YOUR SHAM ELECTION!

Your successful boycott of the June 18, 2021, election, coming on the heels of four years of popular protests, show the world and the regime in power that the Iranian people are fed up with the economic incompetence, the broken promises, the systemic corruption, the disrespect for human rights and the misogynistic treatment of women in Iran.

If I may, let me reflect for a moment on that last point. How ironic that the leaders of Iran treat women as less than equals-- when this resistance movement, led by a woman and comprised of 50 percent women-- will ultimately bring them down!

My friends, please allow me to sum up. YOU—not them—represent the future of Iran. YOU—not them—are committed to equality for all nationalities and genders. YOU—not them—believe in peaceful coexistence and respect for the United Nations charter. And if you continue to fight, to challenge, to speak out and to resist, YOU—not them—will one day deliver the right of self-determination and freedom to the people of Iran.

For more information, please contact:

Alex Ellis at aellis@bgrpr.com

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Alex Ellis
Senior Associate
BGR Public Relations

BGR | GROUP
WASHINGTON - AUSTIN - BEIJING - LONDON

The Homer Building
11th Floor South
601 13th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Direct: 202.661.6356
aellis@bgrdc.com
www.bgrdc.com
[Check us out on LinkedIn](#)